

finally got the job done a couple of years ago and we're now going to have data collection and some health care information, and Joe R. Seacrest was there through that fight and many other fights and was a friend to myself and so many other individuals as he tried to do what was best for the State of Nebraska. He was a real inspiration to me as he would sit down and talk about the various issues and concerns that he'd have and whenever it got a little hard he was always there to provide some inspiration. You know it's ironic and symbolic at the same time that he passed away shortly before the demise of his family owned ownership of the Lincoln Journal as it now has merged into the Journal Star. It was a sad day I think to lose Joe R. Seacrest and perhaps in some ways his passing prior to that changing of hands from his family owned status to the merger, I think the timing is probably appropriate. I know how much the paper meant to him and how much he meant to the City of Lincoln and the State of Nebraska. So I, too, rise in support of the resolution and recognize Joe R., his wife, Mike, and all of his family for all of the great things they have done for the State of Nebraska. I think I'd yield whatever remaining time to Senator Landis. Do you want some time?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, I was flying off to a group of insurance legislator's meeting at I think it was Florida one time and I was in the coach class as we all are when we travel for the state, and I happened to have a seatmate just down the aisle. It was Joe R. Seacrest and he asked me to join him and there was a free seat. I sat next to him and we exchanged news about our families and then he took up immediately the topic of the right of privacy which is one of my real interests legislatively. He knew what was happening on the floor, he knew what was happening with a bill, he knew about the issue, he cared very much about the First Amendment and the right to privacy and we had a flight that lasted about two and a half hours. And over the course of that time, he certainly was intellectually rigorous as we talked about these issues. He was earnest because he cared about it. It wasn't just the pleasantries that you do to make time pass by when you're with somebody. He was genuinely earnest in this topic. He was good-natured and good-humored, a delightful conversationalist and in the end he communicated a lovely message which was that my conversation was as interesting to him as his conversation was, that he was as interested or more in